

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-20, 23-25, 35-44, 54-62, 72-77 and 94-114 are pending in this application.¹ Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-14, 17, 36, 38-44, 57, 58, 99, 103 and 110 have been deemed to present allowable subject matter and would be allowed if presented in independent form. Claims 1, 15, 16, 18-20, 23, 35, 37, 55, 56, 72-77, 94-95, 97, 98, 100-102, 104-109 and 111-114 have been objected to and/or rejected.

By this Amendment claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 35, 36, 55, 56, 72-77, 94-98, 100-103, 105-107, 108-110 and 112-114 have been cancelled. Such cancellation is without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and Applicants reserve their right to pursue those claims in a related continuing application. Also, claims 2, 17, 37, 57, 99, 104 and 111 have been placed into independent form, which the Office Action stated would place those claims into condition for allowance. Claims 11 and 12 have been reflect these changes. Claims 2, 17, 37, 57, 99, 104 and 111 are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the indicated allowability (subject to placement into independent form) of claims 2-9, 17, 37-44, 57-62, 99, 104 and 111. Claims 2, 17, 37, 57, 99, 104 and 11 have been placed into independent form, and the other allowable claims depend therefrom. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

¹ Although claims 4, 24, 25, 54 and 59-62 were previously withdrawn, the Office Action does not identify those claims as are standing withdrawn. Accordingly, it is understood that these cases are no longer withdrawn.

**The Objection to
the Claims**

Claims 54 and 95 have been objected to because of matters of form - the Office Action proposed a change to claim 54, and claim 95 was said to lack a period.

Claim 54 and 95 has been suitable revised (the cancellation of claims 1 and 15 renders moot the question in the Office Action comparing claim 54 to those claims). Claim 95 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 11-16, 18-20, 23-25, 35, 36, 54-56, 72-77, 94-103, 105-110 and 112-114 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,271,928 to Bullock et al.

It is believed the inclusion of claim 99 in this rejection was an inadvertent error; the Office Action states at page 10, first paragraph, that claim 99 presents allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 15, 16, 18, 19, 35, 36, 55, 56, 72-77, 94-98, 100-103, 105-110 and 112-114 have been cancelled, and so the corresponding portions of this rejection are moot.

As regards the remaining claims, claims 11-14 now depend from allowable claim 2, claim 20 depends from allowable claim 17, claims 23-25 and 54 all ultimately depend from allowable claims 2-9, 17 or 20, and, as noted above, claim 99 is believed to be allowable.

For all the foregoing reasons, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 23, 36 and 77 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bullock in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,227,638 to Childers et al.

First the cancellation of claims 35 and 77 renders moot the corresponding portions of this rejection.

Claim 23 now depends upon allowable claims 2-9, 17 and 20. Accordingly, claim 23 is believed to patentably distinguish over those references at least for the same reasons as allowable claims 2-9, 17 and 20.

For all the foregoing reasons, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

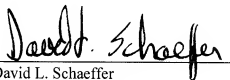
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Applicants respectfully submits that all outstanding objections and rejections have been addressed and are now either overcome or moot. Applicants further submit that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Other than the extension fee authorized in the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), no fees are believed to be due. Nevertheless, should the Commissioner deem any fees to be now or hereafter due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge all such fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Schaeffer", is written over a horizontal line.

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